

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 301340Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3530

INFO AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL BELEM

AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

AMCONSUL SALVADOR

S E C R E T BRASILIA 3804

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE FALCAO

REF: BRASILIA 3803

THE FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE FALCAO/MOURA
MEMCON REPORTED REFTEL:

QUOTE A. THE FEDERAL POLICE - FALCAO IS HAPPY WITH COL. (RET)
MOACYR (COL. MOACYR COELHO, NEW CHIEF OF FEDERAL POLICE)
WHO IS FULLY RESPONSIVE TO THE MINISTER'S DIRECTIVES.
BOTH FALCAO AND COACYR BELIEVE THAT A SUBSTANTIAL INVEST-
MENT IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE
FEDERAL POLICE. IT IS FALCAO'S DESIRE TO ESTABLISH AN
EXEMPLARY FORCE FROM WHICH AN EXAMPLE WILL TRICKLE DOWN
TO OTHER LAW AND ORDER AGENCIES. THE MINISTER IS DIS-
TRESSED OVER THE STATE OF LAWLESSNESS IN THE STATE OF
GUANABARA WHERE 300 ASSAULTS TAKE PLACE EACH DAY. HE
SAID THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL HAD TOLD HIM WHEN HE ASSUMED

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THE JUSTICE MINISTRY THAT THE FEDERAL POLICE WOULD BE

WITHIN THE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION AND CONTROL OF THE MINISTER. THE ONLY IMPOSITION BY THE PRESIDENT WAS THAT THE CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL POLICE NOT BE AN ACTIVE DUTY GENERAL OFFICER.

B. THE FATHER JENTEL CASE - NOW THAT THE SUPERIOR MILITARY TRIBUNAL HAS THROWN THE CASE BACK TO THE CIVILIAN COURTS WITH WHAT, IN EFFECT, WAS A PUBLIC ADMISSION THAT JENTEL WAS NOT GUILTY OF SUBVERSION, THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT EXPECTS JENTEL TO FOLLOW UP ON A "DEAL" HE HAD MADE. ACCORDING TO THE ARRANGEMENT, THE SIGNED ORDER EXPELLING JENTEL FROM BRAZIL WOULD NOT BE EXECUTED IN EXCHANGE FOR A LETTER FROM THE PRIEST ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO RETURN TO FRANCE TO VISIT RELATIVES. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD, FALCAO SAID, THAT JENTEL WILL NOT BE GIVEN A VISA SHOULD HE WISH TO RETURN TO BRAZIL.

C. CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGN PRESS - FOLLOWING HIS REQUEST FOR SUGGESTIONS WHICH MIGHT HELP TO IMPROVE BRAZIL'S IMAGE, I POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF "BACKGROUNDERS" AND SIMILAR SKULL SESSIONS WITH RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAVE HAD MANY SUCH MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF VERY LIBERAL AND EVEN LEFT-WING NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS, AND THAT MY CONFIDENCES HAVE NOT BEEN VIOLATED. BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL MANAGEMENT OF THE DECOMPRESSION PROCESS, I SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD BE A VERY POPULAR SUBJECT FOR NEWSPAPERMEN. I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT HE SEEK TO PERSUADE GEN. GOLBERY TO UNDERTAKE SUCH SESSIONS. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE AREA OF MEETING WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS HAD NOT YET BEEN DEFINED WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION, BUT THAT HE WAS GOING TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH GOLBERY AND WITH THE PRESIDENT.

D. FORMER GOVERNOR CARLOS LACERDA - THE MINISTER IDENTIFIED LACERDA (FORMER GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GUANABARA) AS A CONTINUING MENACE. HE SAID THAT LACERDA HAD USED THE COUP IN PORTUGAL AS A VEHICLE TO VOICE HIS OPPOSITION TO THE BRAZILIAN REGIME, AND THAT LACERDA WAS MEETING WITH THE REMNANTS OF HIS FORMER HARD LINE FOLLOWING. ACCORDING TO FALCAO, THE "O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO" HAD BEEN
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REQUESTED TO STOP PRINTING LACERDA'S ARTICLES AND THE CONSORS DIRECTED IN INSURE THAT SUCH STATEMENTS WERE NOT PRINTED. MOREOVER, HE SAID, A TIGHT SURVEILLANCE HAS BEEN PLACED ON LACERDA.

E. THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION - ARMANDO FALCAO SAID THAT THE UPRISING IN PORTUGAL CAME AT A VERY BAD TIME FOR BRAZIL SINCE THE OPPONENTS OF THE GEISEL REGIME ARE

SEEKING TO USE THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION FOR THEIR OWN DOMESTIC PURPOSES. ANOTHER DISTURBING ELEMENT IS THAT BRAZIL MUST MAKE FOREIGN POLICY JUDGMENTS WHICH IT WOULD HAVE PREFERRED DELAYING. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER GEN. FONTOURA (BRIG. GEN. CARLOS ALBERTO DA FONTOURA, FORMER HEAD OF SNI) WOULD BE GOING TO PORTUGAL AS AMBASSADOR, HE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY, BUT SAID THAT HE WOULD BE GOING UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH CONSIDERABLE RISK TO HIS PERSONAL SAFETY.

F. HIS OWN PERSONAL SECURITY - OUR HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION CONVINCED ME THAT ARMANDO FALCAO IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER HIS PERSONAL SECURITY AND THAT OF HIS FAMILY. HE SAID THAT TERRORIST FRANKLIN MARTINS HAS REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO BRAZIL (VIA URUGUAY), FROM ALGERIA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSASSINATING FALCAO. ANOTHER GROUP OF TERRORISTS, WHICH INCLUDED AN ARGENTINE AND TWO URUGUAYANS, IN ADDITION TO BRAZILIANS, WAS INTERCEPTED AT THE RIO GRANDE DO SUL CITY OF PELOTAS. THAT GROUP REPORTEDLY PLANNED TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT GEISEL DURING THE ARMY OLYMPICS HELD IN BRASILIA DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 22. THE MINISTER FEELS THAT THE WEAK LINK IN HIS SECURITY POSTURE IS WITHIN BRASILIA "WHERE ONE TENDS TO CONVINCE HIMSELF THAT THERE IS NO DANGER." HE FEELS THAT HE HAS ADEQUATE COVERAGE DURING HIS WEEKENDS IN GUANABARA BECAUSE I ARMY COMMANDER GEN. REYNALDO (WITH WHOM HE IS ON EXTREMELY CLOSE TERMS), HAS GIVEN PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THE MATTER. DR. FALCAO SAID THAT HE HAS BROUGHT IN TWO FORMER BODYGUARDS FROM HIS NATIVE STATE OF CEARA. "THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL NOT HESITATE TO LAZY DOWN THEIR LIVES TO PROTECT MINE," HE AVOWED. UNQUOTE. CRIMMINS

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